

File Code: 2230-3/2210-1

Date: March 3, 2010

JOHN & TERRY CAUTHEN
PO BOX 215
ASH FORK, AZ 86320

Dear John & Terry:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Irishman Dam Allotment during the 2010 grazing season. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as indicated in part three of your permit.

1. Season of Use and Numbers to be Grazed

Your 2010 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

70 adult cattle from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011

2. Pasture Sequence

Pasture	Use Dates	Livestock Numbers
North	3/1 to 5/31	70
Mexican	6/1 to 8/31	70
Meath	9/1 to 11/30	70
Putney	12/1/2010 to 2/28/2011	70
2011 Proposed Sequence		
Middle	3/1 to 5/31	70
Miller	6/1 to 8/31	70
North	9/1 to 11/30	70

Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are tentative and subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to change the pasture rotation and/or the number of days spent in each pasture based on the amount of available forage and/or water, grazing intensity, forage utilization, and livestock distribution. It is important for both the Permittee and the Forest Service to notify each other promptly if it appears that changes to this schedule may be necessary. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.



3. Range Improvements

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (amended December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

Maintenance of Range Improvements –

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and the problems found corrected on a yearly basis. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

All maintenance must conform to the standards specified by your district grazing permit administrator. The Forest Service does not provide any material for routine maintenance.

You have requested and have received (via this AOI) to work on the following earthen tank:

Santa Fe Tank, range improvement #7831
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All equipment work is to remain within the original confines of each tank, and is not to be expanded. Tanks may be cleaned to whatever depth is possible, but under no circumstances are they to be widened.

Excavated material is to be placed around the dike and tank and compacted sufficiently so that the tank is left with a ‘finished’ look to it. The spillways are to be left at their original height.

The other earthen tank you have requested to work on (Little Irishman Dam Tank, #8412; also called Tin Can Hole) needs a heritage survey before any work can begin; we will let you know when this is completed.

You would also like to clean Terry’s Tank but there is neither range improvement number nor water rights for it; we can find no record of its construction. Since it is located in a drainage we won’t be able to apply for a water right and without that, no work can occur there. If you have any documentation on that tank please share that with us and we can determine the appropriate course of action.

The following projects have been identified for maintenance in 2009:

- Rebuild the Putney Corral in the Putney Pasture. Work can begin once heritage clearances are received; expected by the end of April or early May, 2010.

Construction of New Range Improvements --

All new construction must conform to the standards specified by your district grazing permit administrator.

The Forest Service will contribute materials or labor to cover one half of the cost of installing new range improvements.

- The permittee has identified the need for 2-3 additional corrals; one each in the Mexican, Meath, and Middle Pastures. The Forest Service will attempt to complete the analysis for those projects as they weren't covered in the 1995 NEPA.
- A need for juniper removal in the North Pasture has also been identified. The permittee and Forest Service will look into outside funding sources for this type of project (ex: Habitat Partnership Committee, EQIP).

4. Livestock Distribution

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Distribution aids include: water hauls, waterlot control, salt and supplement stations, and herding.

The following requirements apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your district grazing permit administrator at your annual validation meeting or prior to the Grazing Period to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures.
- b) Provide wildlife escape ramps in all water troughs and open metal storage tanks. The Kaibab National Forest is in the process of acquiring ramps and should be able to provide each Permittees with at least one escape ramp.
- c) Remove portable haul water storage tanks and troughs when livestock leave the pasture.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt and supplements:

- a) Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- b) Remove the salt and supplements when the livestock leave the pasture.

Place portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations in these locations:

- a) At least ¼ mile away from permanent water
- b) Areas of light forage Utilization. Move the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met.
- c) Different sites than were used last year
- d) On soils that are not fragile or eroding
- e) On sites that are not in wetlands or drainages
- f) On sites that do not have populations of rare plants, if known

Hay may be used only when snow has greatly limited the use of available forage. You are encouraged to use weed-free hay. The same considerations for distribution will apply when feeding hay as given above when using salt and supplements. Gates in waterlot fences will be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate cattle distribution in the pasture.

5. Drought Management

Permittees are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of animals during drought periods. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier in each pasture during the Grazing Period if the drought continues and only a minimal amount of forage is produced. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers during drought periods, it is likely that livestock will have to move through pastures more quickly and be removed from the allotment at an earlier date because carrying capacity (i.e. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced during a drought.

6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

The Allowable Use Standard for the Irishman Dam Allotment is 40%. This equates to conservative grazing intensity: approximately equal to a maximum of 40% utilization of forage standing crop at the end of the growing season (November 15). Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity.

Conservative Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 40% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- Rangeland may be topped, skimmed, or grazed in patches.
- Areas greater than 1 mile from water show little use.
- There is no evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have abundant seed stalks (60-80% of stalks remain).
- 1/3 to 1/2 of good forage plants have been grazed in key areas.
- Most young plants are not damaged.
- Poor forage plants are not grazed at all.

7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. We prefer that Grazing Intensity be estimated for preferred forage species in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations, and in areas that are used by livestock.

Data to collect include:

- pasture name
- dates of actual use
- type and class of livestock
- number of livestock
- approximate location of key area
- Grazing Intensity class
- date of observation

Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations. A form is included for your use. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis.

8. Motor Vehicle Restrictions

If you need to enter a motor vehicle restricted area, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your Annual Operating Instructions. Entering a restricted area without authorization is a violation of 36 CFR 261.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Range Staff Clare Hydock at 928/635-5623 office, 928/606-1265 cell, or email at chydock@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

/s/Jeffrey R Waters (for)
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger

cc: Elizabeth M Otero

GRAZING INTENSITY MONITORING RECORD

Allotment: _____ Pasture: _____

Data Collector: _____ Permittee: _____

Dates of Actual Use: _____

Type and Class of Livestock: _____

Number of Livestock: _____

KEY AREA NAME & LOCATION	MONITORING DATE	GRAZING INTENSITY CLASS
<i>Example – Kaibab Flat, ~½ mile NE of Empty Tank, NW ¼ of Section 28, 200' from Rd. 15</i>	<i>Example – June 5, 2007</i>	<i>Example – Moderate</i>

Grazing Intensity Choices: Light, Conservative, Moderate, Heavy, Severe

Precipitation Records:

Notes:

